

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 04292 261923Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 MC-02 RSR-01

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R 261725Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8262

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TSPA BE

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE (ESC) DEPUTIES

MEETING - JULY 25

REF: BRUSSELS 4243 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ESC DEPUTIES MET IN PARIS JULY 25 TO PREPARE FOR ESC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON JULY 31. FRENCH RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD AT ALL, BUT THIS QUESTION APPARENTLY LAID TO REST. RUMOR CIRCULATED THAT UK MAY HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN FRENCH L3S LAUNCHER PROJECT BY DEVELOPING INERTIAL GUIDANCE SYSTEM AT ITS OWN EXPENSE. END SUMMARY.

2. CHIEF OF GOB FONMIN SCIENCE SERVICE BOUHA, WHO ATTENDED ESC  
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 04292 261923Z

DEPUTIES MEETING IN PARIS, REPORTS THAT ESC MINISTERIAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON JULY 31 DESPITE FRENCH SUGGESTION THAT NOT ENOUGH PROGRESS TOWARD NARROWING AP BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES' POSITIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO WARRANT SUCH MEETING. FRENCH BACKED DOWN AFTER STRONG GERMAN PROTEST. BOUHA'S IMPESSION FROM CORRIDOR TALKS WITH FRENCH DELEGATION IS THAT FRENCH PLAN TO TAKE TOUGH ATTITUDE AT MINISTERIAL MEETING, PERHAPS GOING SO FAR AS TO THREATEN TO BLOCK ESC AUTHORIZATION TO ESRO TO SIGN AGENCY AGREEMENT ON POST-APOLLO COOPERATION WITH NASA. (THIS AUTHORIZATION MUST BE UNANIMOUS BY ESC MEMBER COUNTRIES - AND THUS IS BLACKABLE - WHILE FRENCH COULD NOT PREVENT OTHER COUNTRIES FROM SIGNING GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.) BOUHA BELIEVES GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED BY MOST ESC COUNTRIES ON AUGUST 15.

3. STRONG RUMOR CIRCULATED AT DEPUTIES MEETING THAT BRITISH HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN FRENCH L3S LAUNCHER PROJECT BY DEVELOPING INERTIAL GUIDANCE SYSTEM. HASTY ESTIMATE IS THAT THIS WOULD REPRESENT ONLY TWO OR THREE PERCENT OF TOTAL L3S COSTS. RUMOR WAS VERY SURPRISING TO BOUHA IN VIEW OF UK'S PREVIOUSLY ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO ANY PARTICIPATION. HE THOUGHT THAT, WHILE LARGLEY SYMBOLIC, BRITISH GESTURE MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO UNBLOCK PRESENT ESC DEADLOCK. BOUCH STRESSED THAT UK HAS NOT ANNOUNCED ANY SUCH PARTICIPATION AND THAT RUMOR MAY BE INCORRECT.

4. FRG REPS REPORTED THAT ITALY WILL MAKE SMALL COMMITMENT TO L3S, PERHAPS THREE OR FOUR PERCENT OF COST COMPARED TO 20 PERCENT SHARE IN SPACE LAB. FRG ITSELF WILL NOT ACCEPT PERCENTAGE EVALUATION OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN L3S BUT ITS DM 40 MILLION ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION WOULD ADD UP TO ABOUT 18 PERCENT OF TOTAL. FRG MAY AGREE TO INCREASE PAYMENT IN LATER YEARS TO COMPENSATE FOR PRICE INFLATION. GOB MINISTER AND ESC PRESIDENT HANIN, WHO HAS RECENTLY VISITED THE HAGUE, LONDON AND ROME, BELIEVES THAT DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN BOTH L3S AND SPACE LAB WILL BE ABOUT SAME AS THAT OF BELGIUM; I.E. FOUR OR FIVE PERCENT. BOOCHEVER

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